



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Application of:  
Neil A. A. Simpson

Serial No.: 10/616,061

Confirmation No.: 9534

Filed: July 9, 2003

For: EXPANSION METHOD

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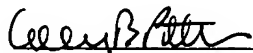
Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Hoang C. Dang

Customer No. 36735

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING   |   |
|--|---|
| 37 CFR 1.8   |   |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>9 Feb</u> , 2006. |   |
| William B. Patterson   |  |
| Typed Name   | Signature   |
| 34,102   | (713)623-4844   |
| Reg. No. if applicable   | Telephone Number  |

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 11, 2005**

In response to the Office Action dated October 11, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one month set to expire on February 11, 2006, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.